



# Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation

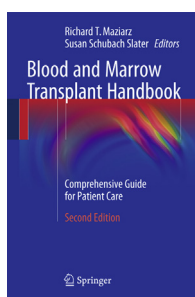
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## Book Reviews

### Blood and Marrow Transplant Handbook

Book Review of Blood and Marrow Transplant Handbook by Richard Maziarz and Susan Slater (Editors), Springer.



*Blood and Marrow Transplant Handbook* is an excellent handbook: concise and easy to understand. It is useful for blood and marrow transplantation (BMT) “beginners,” and it is convenient to consult during patient care. It has value for the experienced clinician with reviews of BMT clinical care and topics, such as the business of BMT and long-term care issues, that might be less familiar to a clinician focusing on acute BMT care. The manual is valuable for a physician covering a BMT service as a hospitalist or for the referring physician who will be caring long-term for a BMT patient. The editors and authors are to be lauded for generating a second edition, updating their previous endeavor from 2010. Many BMT “Washington manual” formatted books have not benefitted from continued follow-up. The authors have taken great care to provide updated information.

Some clinical practice methods can be “Oregon-centric.” As an example, in chapter 7, the authors state that the “standard” way to administer melphalan is 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 2 days instead of 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a single dose. It can be argued that 1 person’s standard is another person’s variance. The infection prophylaxis chapter prefaces some recommendations with “At our center....” This is helpful for the novice, distinguishing practices that are center-specific compared with those that are widely used. Some recommendations, such as how often to see a patient after BMT, no yogurt during the period of neutropenia, and avoidance of enoxaparin for deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis during thrombocytopenia, are not specified as “this is what we do in Oregon.” The chapter on hematopoietic stem cell sources and donor selection provides donor selection information for

matched related and unrelated donors, but it could use more detail regarding haploidentical transplantation. The latter is a difficult topic because of wide variation as to the type of regimen, stem cell source, and type of graft-versus-host disease prophylaxis. In the pretransplantation medical evaluation section, chemo-refractory disease is listed as an exclusion criterion, which is not necessarily standard, especially for selected cases of lymphoma or acute myeloid leukemia. However, all clinicians would prefer a patient in remission. This section has valuable tables detailing risk stratification by disease. The infectious disease chapter contains very nice guidelines on how to dose ganciclovir. Hopefully, the next edition will include foscarnet dosing.

The authors did not cite references in text; instead, they list all the references at the end of the chapter. This may be because of publisher requirements, but it makes it cumbersome to figure out which original article is relevant to different chapter sections. The full names for some abbreviations need to be given in the text or the glossary. For example, in chapter 3, page 31, SDF-1 $\alpha$  is used, and on page 36, ATG.

These are minor points relative to the overall excellence of the book. The psychiatric complications chapter contains an extensive listing of antidepressants, with recommendations for use along with appropriate side-effect monitoring. The chapters on late effects including pulmonary, cardiovascular, endocrine complications, women’s hormonal issues, and secondary malignancies are especially noteworthy. These sections are very helpful for the referring physician managing the allogeneic BMT patient who has returned home from the transplantation center. The first edition is currently for sale on Amazon in paperback and well as Kindle; however, you may want the second edition, which we found at Barnes and Nobles and Springer on line. We look forward to the next edition—hopefully within 5 years!

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